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SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515—4323

October 13, 2017

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Jeff Bezos Chief Executive Officer Amazon 2121 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Seattle, WA 98121

Dear Mr. Bezos,

I am writing to express my support for the City of El Paso, Texas as the location for Amazon's second headquarters, HQ2. As you know, El Paso is home to a highly skilled, productive and qualified workforce and a rich history that has been celebrating diversity for centuries.

Texas is working diligently across the state to improve its infrastructure and create economic opportunities while leveraging funding from the private sector and all levels of government. My state has worked previously to combine our limited government, low taxes, and premiere educational institutions to build businesses and grow communities. In fact, the Tax Foundation has rated Texas' state and local tax burden as the 46<sup>th</sup> lowest in the nation. Due to our notoriously friendly people, affordable living, and laid-back lifestyle, it is no surprise that Texas attracts the most out-of-state Americans from every region than any other state.

Over the past decade, the greater El Paso region has seen a boom in private and public sector investments. In addition to this massive economic growth, the city offers the space for Amazon to construct its ideal second headquarters. Less than two hours east of the heart of the city, Blue Origin, another of your companies, has been successfully operating a rocket launch facility for the past several years. This adds to the compelling evidence that West Texas can and does produce the diverse talent required at all levels to meet the evolving needs of the world's leading corporation. El Paso's prime location, on the border of two leading global economies, provides a key access point to North American and world trade.

El Paso's highly educated labor pool, strong university system, international airport and geographical location provide the perfect environment for Amazon's global growth. I appreciate your swift and thoughtful consideration of the City of El Paso as the location for your second headquarters. Should you have additional questions, please feel free to contact my office at 202-225-4511.

Sincerely,

Member of Congress